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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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UNITED STATES.

Yellow fever in Key West, Fla., and other places.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

September 8: Passed Assistant Surgeon Smith reports his arrival with Steward Olsen at Key West, en route to Tortugas, to take charge of detention camp.

September 9: Assistant Surgeon Fricks reports his arrival at Key West. He reports to Assistant Surgeon McAdam, in charge of the marine hospital.

Surgeon Carter was directed to wire all details regarding transportation to and from Tortugas.

Surgeon Carter reports:

Thirty-one new cases and 2 deaths. Tortugas will be a creditable camp—20 guests in now, and 13 more gone to-day. Arrangements for transportation are complete and satisfactory.

With reference to the transfer of persons to the detention camp at Tortugas, Surgeon Carter reports as follows:

At present *Powhatan* and *Glazier*, supplemented by the tug *Bolivar*, take refugees to Tortugas. When the refugees are ready to leave, will disinfect the *Powhatan* and *Glazier*, bring refugees in pratique in them to Plant and Miami steamers in Key West Harbor, thence to mainland. The *Bolivar* will continue two trips per week to take refugees to Tortugas. Am trying to keep all 3 vessels clean, but redisinfect those bringing returning refugees to avoid possible contamination en route.

September 10: Surgeon Murray telegraphs from Jackson, Miss., that 1 case of yellow fever is reported in that place at noon by the health officer.

Dr. H. A. Grant, State health officer of Mississippi, reports from Mississippi City no new cases, and that the isolation of cases is perfect.

Assistant Surgeon McAdam reports from Key West 23 cases, 2 deaths, 1 death at marine hospital. Twenty-four refugees sent to Tortugas yesterday.

September 11: Assistant Surgeon Trotter is directed to remain at Port Tampa as chief representative of the Service.

Assistant Surgeon McAdam reports for to-day, 12 new cases—several physicians not heard from.

Surgeon Carter reports from Key West as follows:

Leave for New Orleans to-night. Vessels not quarantined will take by lighter only immune passengers, of whom there will be very few, and freight incapable of conveying infection—both under certification. Freight will be cigars.

Assistant Surgeon Trotter telegraphs:

Acting Assistant Surgeon Altree reports a death from yellow fever this morning in hospital at Port Tampa City—necropsy confirms diagnosis. Five under observation, no symptoms—3 from tug *Maria Louisa* in harbor, 2 from *Mascotte*. *Maria Louisa* remanded to Mullet Key Quarantine. Body buried before report. There is a panicky feeling prevailing—exodus begun. House-to-house inspection to-day.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ballard is telegraphed at Natchez as follows:

* * * Begin at once personal inspection of all vessels arriving at Natchez from New Orleans. If anything found, report by wire.

The same orders are sent Acting Assistant Surgeon Robbins at Vicksburg as to vessels from New Orleans for Vicksburg, and Acting Assistant Surgeon Laws regarding vessels arriving at Memphis from New Orleans.

Surgeon Magruder is telegraphed as follows:

Have ordered Carter to New Orleans. In meantime establish at once train-inspection service on all trains leaving New Orleans. Nydegger ordered to report to you.

September 12: Surgeon McIntosh, at Mobile, was directed to make arrangements to give certificates as to freight originating in noninfected territory and sealing cars for Texas via New Orleans, and have railroads pay for labor, pasters, and other expenses.

Dr. Souchon, president of the Louisiana board of health, telegraphs that there have been 7 cases of yellow fever in all in New Orleans. Assistant Surgeon McAdam reports from Key West 29 new cases and 1 death for September 12. Surgeon Murray reports for New Orleans 2 fatal cases, 1 recovery, and 6 being treated.

September 13: Assistant Surgeon Trotter reports all well in camp at Port Tampa.

Assistant Surgeon McAdam reports for Key West 35 cases, no deaths. Two guests for Tortugas to-night.

September 14: Surgeon Murray reports at Mississippi City 4 new cases, no deaths. Two other houses suspected.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

YELLOW FEVER IN THE NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME, NEAR HAMPTON, VA.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

September 10: Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf reports as follows:

I have the honor to state that the guards were promptly removed at 6 p. m. yesterday, in accordance with instructions contained in Bureau telegram dated September 5, 1899. The conditions at the Home remain the same. Governor Woodfin informed me this morning that he would limit the issuance of passes to 6 for every 100 inmates instead of 6 for each company, as previously reported. He is refusing the admittance of any visitors, and is retaining his guard at the entrances to the Home. No one is leaving the Home reservation except by permit.

Precautions against yellow fever at Key West.

TORTUGAS, FLA., September 1, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to append herewith copy of circular letter this day sent to the superintendents of the Union Bridge Company at this station and at Key West.

During the prevalence of yellow fever in Key West your supply boat shall be required to observe the following restrictions:

1. That the crew of said boat shall not be allowed on shore in Key West.
2. That she shall bring no passengers other than those with certificates that they have had yellow fever. All baggage must be disinfected.
3. No clothing or fabrics shall be allowed to land unless disinfected.

Respectfully, yours,

TALIAFERRO CLARK,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Yellow fever suspected on Norwegian bark Dina.

BRUNSWICK QUARANTINE, September 4, 1899.

SIR: I have to report the arrival at this station of the Norwegian bark *Dina*, crew of 15, from Para, with sand ballast. The captain reports 1 man with fever sent to hospital in Para, 4 cases of fever treated on board while lying in the harbor, and 2 cases of fever on passage here; making in all 7 cases among the crew. There were no deaths. The duration of the fever was from three to five days. I could obtain no clinical record of any case. The bill of health issued to the vessel showed 13 deaths from yellow fever for the two weeks previous. I believe the vessel infected and have remanded it to South Atlantic Quarantine.

Respectfully, yours,

R. E. L. BURFORD,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.